



**Environmental Quality Board**

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May 4, 2004

Mr. James J. Shield  
Vice-President, Business Development  
Calpine Corporation  
4100 Underwood Road  
Pasadena, TX

RE: EQB Chair's Acceptance of Application of the Mankato Energy Center,  
LLC for a Pipeline Routing Permit and Partial Exemption from  
Pipeline Route Selection Procedures  
(EQB Docket # 04-77-PRP-CALPINE)

Dear Mr. Shield:

Mankato Energy Center, LLC (MEC) has filed an application with the Minnesota Environmental Quality Board for a pipeline routing permit and a partial exemption from certain procedural requirements for a proposed 20-inch outside diameter natural gas pipeline approximately four miles long to be located in Blue Earth County, Minnesota. Mankato Energy Center is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Calpine Corporation.

EQB staff has reviewed your application and has concluded that the application is consistent with the requirements of Minn. Rules, chapter 4415. Based upon the staff recommendation and my review, I am accepting the MEC application for a pipeline routing permit. The pipeline route permit application will be reviewed pursuant to the partial exemption procedures of Minn. Rules, parts 4415.0035, 4415.0040 and 4415.0105.

George Johnson of the EQB staff will be the board's project manager for this project. Please direct any future questions to Mr. Johnson.

We look forward to working with Mankato Energy Center to address any issues that may be raised in review of this application for a pipeline routing permit and a partial exemption from pipeline route selection procedures. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Robert A. Schroeder, Chair  
Environmental Quality Board

cc: Jason Goodwin , Calpine Corporation  
Kent Morton, Calpine Corporation  
Jon Sandstedt, Wenck Associates  
Dale Claridge, Wenck Associates  
Lori Bartells, Wenck Associates